

UDPATE: US Tow Trucks

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Date: Sat, 12 Feb 2022 00:09:57 +0000

Hi everyone,

From CBSA perspective, we have engaged in discussions and have confirmed that the CBSA would permit the entry of foreign tow truck operators and their equipment to assist the RCMP due to the ongoing safety and security situation. The operators would be granted entry to Canada without a work permit to their role in supporting the emergency services engaged in disrupting the protest activity.

With respect to Windsor, we understand that the Windsor Police Service that the State of Michigan do not currently have towing operators available to assist in Canada. We understand that PCO is going to re-engage with the Governor of Michigan to reconfirm her earlier commitment.

With respect to Coutts, RCMP has advised that local tow truck operators have faced intimidation by protestors, particularly from the trucking community. As a result, the Canadian law enforcement agencies are unable to secure sufficient assistance from towing operators to assist in removing personal vehicles, tractor trailers, farm implements and other heavy equipment from protest blockade sites.

Thanks,
Eugenia

Eugenia Holodny
613-293-6918

From: Holodny, Eugenia
Sent: February 10, 2022 12:32 PM
To: 'Mike.Jones@ps-sp.gc.ca' <Mike.Jones@ps-sp.gc.ca>; 'Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca' <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>; 'Kurusamy, Gowthaman' <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; 'Savard-Shaw, Julie' <Julie.Savard-Shaw@ps-sp.gc.ca>; 'Kelly.Murdock@ps-sp.gc.ca' <Kelly.Murdock@ps-sp.gc.ca>; 'Horonowitsch, Emily' <Emily.Horonowitsch@PS-SP.GC.CA>; 'Andie.Habert@ps-sp.gc.ca' <Andie.Habert@ps-sp.gc.ca>; 'Craig.MacBride@PS-SP.GC.CA' <Craig.MacBride@PS-SP.GC.CA>
Cc: Johnston, Jag <Jag.Johnston@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>; Prakash, Karun <Karun.Prakash@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>; Quinn, Robyn <Robyn.Quinn@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>; Sharp, Matthew <Matthew.Sharp@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>; McDaniel, Carly <Carly.McDaniel@ps-sp.gc.ca>
Subject: FOR AWARENESS: US Tow Trucks

Good afternoon,

Sharing the chain below for your awareness – there is discussion in possibly using US tow trucks to help Windsor remove trucks. The White House and the Governor's Office have reached out to PCO asking about the number of trucks needed.

Thanks,
Eugenia Holodny
613-293-6918

From: Vinette, Denis R. <Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Sent: February 10, 2022 12:00 PM
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Subject: FW: US Tow Trucks

fyi

Denis

From: Martin.Loken@international.gc.ca <Martin.Loken@international.gc.ca>
Sent: February 10, 2022 11:52 AM
To: Michael.Grant@international.gc.ca; Mike.MacDonald@pco-bcp.gc.ca
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Subject: RE: US Tow Trucks

Thanks, Michael and Mike.

For awareness, embassy is expecting to speak later today with DHS Under Secretary Rob Silvers (his request) and with Michigan Representative Dan Kildee (his request) on the border situation.

Also for awareness Michigan Governor Whitmer released a strong statement this morning (pasted below) calling on Canada to resolve the situation; and Representative Elissa Slotkin – a moderate Democrat - released a Twitter thread (also pasted below) decrying her state's vulnerability to foreign supply chains and stating that "we have to bring American manufacturing back home".

Martin

Governor Whitmer Calls on Canada to Reopen Traffic on Ambassador Bridge

Governor urges authorities to resolve bridge blockade so manufacturing, agriculture in Midwest can continue humming along

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued the following statement urging Canadian authorities to quickly resolve the ongoing Ambassador Bridge closure and its impacts on the Michigan’s economy, including key sectors like autos, agriculture, manufacturing, and more.

“My message is simple: reopen traffic on the bridge.

“In Michigan, our economy continues to grow because of our hardworking people and innovative small businesses. Now, that momentum is at risk. Commercial traffic is at a standstill at the Ambassador Bridge and heavily backed up at the Blue Water Bridge.

“The blockade is having a significant impact on Michigan’s working families who are just trying to do their jobs. Our communities and automotive, manufacturing, and agriculture businesses are feeling the effects. It’s hitting paychecks and production lines. That is unacceptable.

“The Ambassador Bridge is the busiest land border crossing in North America, used by tens of thousands of commuters and truck drivers carrying hundreds of millions of dollars of goods every day. Countless Michiganders rely on this daily flow of goods and people to get things done.

“It is imperative that Canadian local, provincial, and national governments de-escalate this economic blockade. They must take all necessary and appropriate steps to immediately and safely reopen traffic so we can continue growing our economy, supporting good-paying jobs, and lowering costs for families.”

Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI-8) | US House

Tweet - February 9, 2022

If we needed another example of why supply chains matter, look no further: the blockade of the Ambassador Bridge, the busiest border crossing in America, is already creating major disruptions for our businesses in Michigan. [Delta Assembly Plant cancels shift due to parts shortage tied to Ambassador Bridge protest.](#)

Michiganders have been saying for decades that when our manufacturing is outsourced too much, we end up paying the price. It doesn’t matter if it’s an adversary or an ally – we can’t be this reliant on parts coming from foreign countries.

I’ve been in contact with the White House today about this situation, and they are closely following these events. We are all waiting for Prime Minister Trudeau’s way forward.

The one thing that couldn’t be more clear is that we have to bring American manufacturing back home to states like Michigan. If we don’t, it’s American workers like the folks at Delta Township who are left holding the bag.

From: Grant, Michael -NGM <Michael.Grant@international.gc.ca>

Sent: February 10, 2022 10:46 AM

To: MacDonald, Mike <Mike.MacDonald@pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Cc: Denis.Vinette@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca; Baird, Louise <Louise.Baird@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Hutchinson, Jeffery <Jeffery.Hutchinson@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Oldham, Craig <Craig.Oldham@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; s.38 <[REDACTED]@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Zed, Jordan <Jordan.Zed@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Benjamin, Martin -IFM <Martin.Benjamin@international.gc.ca>; Neville, Inez <Inez.Neville@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Glazer, Julie <Julie.Glazer@pco-bcp.gc.ca>; Loken, Martin -WSHDC -GR <Martin.Loken@international.gc.ca>; Baird, Katherine -WSHDC -DHOM/CDMA <Katherine.Baird@international.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: US Tow Trucks

Appreciate the heads up Mike. Taking the liberty of copying in Martin Loken and Katherine Baird in WSHDC.

Michael Grant
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From: MacDonald, Mike <Mike.MacDonald@pco-bcp.gc.ca>
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Subject: US Tow Trucks
Importance: High

Hi Michael,

I want to give you a head's up, for both Washington and Detroit offices, that there is talk related to the Ambassador Bridge and possibly using US tow trucks to help Windsor City remove trucks that are blocking the lanes. White House had a call into PCO yesterday, and the Governor's Office has reached into PCO asking about how many trucks would be needed. CBSA RDG is also getting pulled into the on-the-ground conversations as is currently 'holding' and not communicating further.

At the same time, Windsor Police have come into PCO asking for Federal assistance (police officers) and part of that request is for tow trucks.

s.39
[REDACTED]

Looping you in for GAC awareness, and possibly involvement in Ministerial or DM convos/work/action.

Hope all is well! Mike